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## AY 2001/2002 SEC meeting minutes: 02 Mar 06

Faculty Senate

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# USF Faculty Senate Archives

## SEC Minutes

March 6, 2002

### SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 6, 2002

### MINUTES

Present: Marion Becker, Jana Futch, Mary Kimble, Sara Mandell, Cheryl McCoy, Gregory Paveza, Sandra Reynolds, Nancy Jane Tyson, John Richmond

President's Office: Josue Cruz

Provost's Office: David Stamps, Phil Smith

Guests: James Cavendish, Christopher Cook, Yousef Turshani

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. The Minutes of February 20, 2002, were approved as corrected.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Gregory Paveza)

President Paveza announced that he had not met with President Genshaft or Provost Stamps for the month and, therefore, had nothing to report on that basis. He did, however, distribute copies of a letter dated March 1, 2002, which he sent to President Genshaft recommending nominees for the Board of Trustees (BOT) committees. President Paveza nominated specific officers of either the Faculty Senate or committee chairs that would best serve on specific committees.

President Paveza then turned to the following motion:

The Council of Chairpersons of the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of South Florida believes that the abrogation of tenure of a tenured faculty member, as in the case of Professor Al-Arian, no matter how serious the allegations, requires a review of the allegations and a recommendation by a committee of faculty peers applying due process by principles of the AAUP guidelines on academic freedom and tenure.

This motion supports the Faculty Senate's position of appointing a peer review committee. It was presented to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) for informational purposes only and will not be forwarded to the Faculty Senate.

President Paveza distributed copies of the Tentative Schedule for the Ad Hoc Committee of the AAUP Investigating the Case of Professor Sami Al-Arian. The committee will be conducting its investigation at the Embassy Suites on March 15 and 16, 2002, with a return visit by the chairperson on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Graduate Council Chair John Richmond inquired if there was anything the Senate should be made aware of in light of the fact that the AAUP visit will be during Spring Break. President Paveza announced that the dates did occur over the objections of both he and President Genshaft. However, due to scheduling, it was either these dates or late in May. President Paveza pointed out AAUP meetings generally operate as closed meetings, but anyone can meet with them secretly.

Graduate Council Chair Richmond asked if the AAUP had given any indication as to the turn-around on their deliberations after their findings. President Paveza replied that the AAUP anticipates providing President Genshaft with a preliminary report by the end of the academic term. They also indicated that they may come back to conclude an expanded investigation.

President Paveza announced that he would be out of town at the time of the April 3, 2002, SEC meeting and asked if the members were opposed to moving that meeting to April 10, 2002. There were no objections. The meeting will be held in the same location SVC 5012.

### **PROVOST'S REPORT** (David Stamps)

Provost Stamps announced that a Foundation Roundtable has been established. The purpose of this roundtable is to match faculty interests with foundation funding and assist them in submitting proposals. Provost Stamps is chair of the roundtable with Vice Provost Catherine Batsche and Assistant Director Suzanne Moore from University Advancement as coordinators. Meetings have begun and it is anticipated that the roundtable will meet six times a year. Provost Stamps announced that if faculty are looking for funding in a particular area, they should send him an e-mail.

Provost Stamps announced that the new Engineering Building III is now open. Funding should be available at the end of this cycle for the Natural and Environmental Sciences Building. Although the Chemistry building is slated for renovation, it may have to be put on hold because the Governor took this year's state matching funds from PICO. When this happened, all of the universities were cut in terms of PICO funds they receive. The Provost pointed out that there is a very good possibility that because of this the renovation of the Chemistry Building may not happen at this time.

A proposal to convert the Honors Program into an Honors College is in the process of being prepared and submitted to the BOT. There will be a Dean's search for the Honors College, but Dr. Stuart Silverman will be the Interim. In addition, a proposal will be submitted to the BOT for a Navy ROTC. The Provost pointed out that by adding a Navy ROTC, USF would have a full complement of ROTC programs.

Academic Affairs Vice President Kathleen Moore has been named Interim Dean of Educational Outreach to replace Dr. Barbara Emil who has resigned. A search for the new Dean of Educational Outreach will take place in the fall.

The Provost announced that USF strategic plans are being prepared based upon the campus hearings on the mission, vision, values, and goals initiatives. Colleges are reviewing their strategic plans and refining them to fit within this statement.

Provost Stamps has appointed a faculty task force on student retention with Professor Duane Smith as chair. A report from the task force is expected by the end of the summer.

The Provost announced that a Legislative Funding Bonus Plan has been appropriated through the 2001 Legislature for non-reoccurring lump sum performance bonuses for A&P and USPS employees. At this time, however, it is not known whether or not faculty will be included. The Legislative Funding Bonus Plan is to be in place by June 1, 2002; therefore, the Provost's Office should soon know who would be eligible.

## **REPORTS BY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL CHAIRS**

### **1. Senate Elections (Jana Futch)**

Secretary Futch announced the following Faculty Senate election results for the 2002-2003 Academic Year:

#### **College of Arts and Sciences (8 three-year terms)**

Elizabeth Bird

Carolyn DiPalma

Gurleen Grewal

Elizabeth Hirsh

Gregory McColm

Marilyn Myerson

Fraser Ottanelli

Graham Tobin

#### **College of Medicine (5 three-year terms; 1 one-year term)**

Robert A. Hauser

Tapan Padhya

Philip Shenefelt

Bernd Sokolowski

Hector, Vila, Jr.

Theresa Kraemer (1 year term)

Automatic Seating

Ellis Blanton, College of Business Administration

John Richmond, College of Visual and Performing Arts

Mary Cuadrado, Sarasota Campus

The College of Education election was re-run due to a discrepancy in the campus mail. The results from that election will be available after March 8<sup>th</sup>.

There are vacancies in the College of Business Administration (1 one-year term) and on the St. Petersburg campus (1 one-year term, 1 two-year term, and 1 three-year term).

Nomination of Faculty Senate officers will take place at the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Forms will be included in the meeting materials for eligible Senators.

2. Undergraduate Council (Sandra Reynolds)

On November 26, 2001, the Undergraduate Council was presented with a resolution from the Student Government Senate which proposed a change of the grading system to allow for 4.33 merit points for an A+, due to the fact that, currently, 4.0 applies to both an A and an A+ in the plus/minus grading system. After some discussion, the Undergraduate Council passed the resolution with a vote of 6 to 4, with three abstentions.

The resolution then came to the Graduate Council, via their Policy Subcommittee, a standing committee of the Graduate Council. It came to the Graduate Council with the recommendation NOT to embrace the 4.33 A+ merit points. The Graduate Council discussed the resolution and declined to approve the change to recognize merit points for A+.

There being disagreement between the Undergraduate Council and the Graduate Council, the matter was then brought to the Faculty Senate via the Executive Committee. There are three options:

**Option 1: Accept the SGS' resolution calling for A+ merit points for Undergraduates only.**

**Option 2: Accept the SGS' resolution calling for A+ merit points for all students.**

**Option 3: Reject the SGS' resolution calling for A+ merit points for all students.**

A motion was made that the Senate Executive Committee reject the Student Government Senate's resolution calling for A+ merit points for all students, i.e., Option 3. The motion was seconded and there was a call for discussion. Before a final vote was taken, however, student Yousef Turshani gave a brief overview of how the three options were developed. After his presentation and discussion by the SEC, a vote was taken and the motion passed. Graduate Council Chair Richmond suggested that a memo from the SEC serve as a preamble to the memorandum by he and Undergraduate Chair Reynolds that reflects the deliberations of the Executive Committee and the recommendations.

3. Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Council (Jeffrey Ryan)

Due to illness, no report from the Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Council was given. This report was postponed until the April SEC meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Gregory Paveza)

President Paveza stated that he did not have an extensive amount of comments for his report. He did explain that he had received a last minute call that his evidentiary testimony was needed on a case, which delayed him for today's meeting. President Paveza did have one issue to address, but not having had the opportunity to speak with the Provost as to whether or not he would address the issue, President Paveza asked that it be presented off the record. The SEC members agreed and the report was made off the record.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to discuss at today's meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Institutional Climate Survey (James Cavendish/Josue Cruz)

Faculty Assistant Josue Cruz introduced the topic of an Institutional Climate Survey by explaining that several months ago there was a proposal sent by USF Black faculty and staff to the Provost and the President suggesting that

a study should be done on salary disparity. It was decided that this study, in conjunction with a thorough study of institutional climate, should be done across the board.

Dr. James Cavendish from the Department of Sociology was asked by the Provost to undertake this project. Dr. Cavendish attended today's meeting to share with the SEC the information he has collected. Dr. Cruz pointed out that the Faculty Senate, through the Senate Executive Committee, would be asked to appoint or ask someone to serve as a liaison between this body and the group that will work with Dr. Cavendish as a link between all the major representative groups on campus. Dr. Cavendish distributed copies of "A Campus Climate Survey - Preliminary Stages" which outlines the focus of other campus climate surveys.

Dr. Cavendish pointed out that USF has done this type of survey before but on a small scale with just 250 respondents of which 24 were minorities. The plan is to gather the results in such a way that the Provost's and the President's Offices can go forward with devising policies and to address some of the concerns that are raised. The first focus will be on faculty and staff, with students being addressed either next year or the year after. It is not yet known if there will be a sampling of faculty and staff or whether the full population will be surveyed. Dr. Cavendish has been meeting with different groups and committees within the university asking for feedback. He was interested to know whether or not there are items on this list that are particularly important to be addressed by USF, as well as items not on this list that need to be addressed by USF.

SEC members made several suggestions. One was that there be three separate groups. That is, one report should be made for faculty, then A&P, and then USPS all as separate enterprises. Dr. Cavendish responded that there would be different questionnaires for different groups. There may be completely different questionnaires or one that will filter. Another suggestion was that objective information, such as turnover rate, comparable faculty salary, sick time rate, should be included. Publishing the results of such information can be useful for showing predictors of the campus climate. Another suggestion was to include an option for "no opinion" on the survey.

The survey will be done by e-mail, including an e-mail containing a link to the Internet survey. Accommodations will be made for those categories of USPS employees who do not have access to computers, who work non-traditional work hours or may have language barriers. Dr. Cruz pointed out that the survey would be conducted only on the main campus.

Senator-at-Large Mandell suggested that questions be included regarding research and gathering statistics on faculty that do research and what their values are towards research. She felt that this is an important issue in looking at the climate of the university. Senator-at-Large Mandell asked that it be noted for the record that raises should be directly related to research. It was decided to explore the question of the relationship between merit and research. In addition, it was also suggested to include a question as to whether or not faculty and staff feel that they are given the support and resources by the university to accomplish their work.

Dr. Cruz reminded President Paveza that a representative from the Faculty Senate should be appointed to serve as liaison between this group and the group that will be working with Dr. Cavendish.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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